

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part adapted to capture an image;

an image processing circuit for converting the image to digital video signals;

a controller connected to the imaging part and the image processing circuit;

a displaying device,

the controller being adapted to determine a brightness level of the digital video signals obtained by the imaging part, to select a predetermined correction value based on the determined brightness level, and to output a command control signal to the image processing circuit,

the image processing circuit being adapted to receive the command control signal from the controller, to automatically correct the digital video signals according to the determined brightness level, to convert the corrected digital video signals to corrected analog video signals, and to output the corrected analog video signals to the displaying device, and

wherein the image processing circuit is adapted to automatically correct the digital video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part including an imaging device;

a signal processing part including a A/D converter and a correcting part, the signal processing part adapted to convert analog video signals outputted from the imaging part into digital video signals; a controller connected to the imaging device and the signal processing part, the controller including a brightness determining part adapted to receive the digital video signals outputted from the signal processing part and adapted to determine a brightness level of the received digital video signals, the controller also including a correction amount determining part adapted to ~~determine a~~ select a predetermined correction amount for the digital video signals according to the brightness level of the digital video signals determined by the brightness determining part, and the controller being adapted to output a command control signal to the correcting part;

the correcting part of the signal processing part adapted to receive the command control signal from the controller, to automatically correct the digital video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part, and to correct the digital video signals according to the determined brightness level from the brightness determining part without lowering an SN ratio; and

wherein the signal processing part also includes a D/A converter for converting the corrected digital video signals into corrected analog video signals, and an outputting part adapted to output the corrected analog video signals to a displaying device.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (Previously Presented) A camera comprising:

- an imaging part that includes an imaging device;
- a variable gain amplifier that amplifies video signals outputted from the imaging part;
- a signal processing part that processes the video signals amplified by the variable gain amplifier;
- a brightness determining part that receives the video signals outputted from the signal processing part and determines a brightness level of the received video signals;
- a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals, wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to a gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio;
- a correction amount determining part that determines a correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video signals determined by the brightness determining part;
- a correcting part that corrects the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part; and
- an outputting part that outputs the video signals corrected by the correction part to a displaying device.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the correcting part does not include a variable gain amplifier.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

- a taking lens;
- a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;
- an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;
- an image signal processing circuit having
 - an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,
 - a gamma correcting circuit,
 - a YC signal generating circuit adapted to perform gamma processing and chroma signal processing on the digital image signals, and
 - a D/A converter adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog image signals;
- a display device controlling circuit adapted to output the analog image signals to a displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and
- a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, adapted to send shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and adapted to automatically determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image signals is lower than a predetermined value, and

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to ~~obtain~~select a predetermined correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital image signals, and to output a command control signal to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering an SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a switch for choosing a command correction processing mode or a non-correction processing mode.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a variable gain amplifier operatively connected between the imaging device and the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit,

wherein a gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled by the microcomputer to provide an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within the EEPROM and which does not permit a lowering of the SN ratio.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 8, said variable gain amplifier amplifying the analog image signals from the imaging device before said A/D converter receives said analog image signals.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera that captures an image with an imaging part and displays the image on a displaying device,

wherein the camera determines a brightness level of video signals obtained by the imaging part and automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level and outputs the corrected video signals to the displaying device, and

wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the video signals by a correction value through correction processing, and further comprising:

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies signals outputted from an imaging part; and

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals,

wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the corrected video signals by a correction value through correction processing, wherein a microcomputer within the camera provides an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within an EEPROM of the computer and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio, wherein a gain controlling part of the camera controls a gain of a variable gain amplifier within the camera according to the determined brightness level of the video signals, and the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range.

13. (New) The camera according to claim 1, wherein the imaging part is directly connected to the image processing circuit.

14. (New) The camera according to claim 1, wherein signals from the imaging part are sent to the image processing circuit with out passing through a variable gain amplifier.

15. (New) The camera according to claim 1, wherein the controller is operatively connected to an EEPROM, the EEPROM storing a data table of predetermined correction values based of brightness levels of the video signals, the command controller signal including the predetermined correction value as determined by the determined brightness level of the video signals.

16. (New) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the imaging part is directly connected to correcting part of the image processing part.

17. (New) The camera according to claim 2, wherein signals from the imaging part are sent to the correcting part of the image processing circuit with out passing through a variable gain amplifier.

18. (New) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the controller is operatively connected to an EEPROM, the EEPROM storing a data table of predetermined correction values based of brightness levels of the video signals, the command controller signal including the predetermined correction values as determined by the determined brightness level of the video signals.

19. (New) The camera according to claim 6, wherein the imaging device is directly connected to the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit.

20. (New) The camera according to claim 6, wherein the microcomputer outputs the command control signal directly from the microcomputer to the image signal processing circuit.

21. (New) The camera according to claim 6, wherein signals from imaging device are sent to the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit without passing through a variable gain amplifier.